

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NAIROB 12161 151506Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 /082 W

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R 151405Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9717

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

CONFIDENTIAL NAIROBI 12161

E.O.M 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, KE, PINT, SF

SUBJECT: FONMIN WAIYAKI BLASTS DIALOGUE WITH SOUTH AFRICA

REF: NAIROBI 12009

1. AS EXPECTED, NJONJO REMARKS FAVORING DIALOGUE WITH SOUTH AFRICA SPARKED STRIDENT RETORT FROM FONMIN WHO RETURNED NAIROBI AUGUST 13 AFTER HAVING ATTENDED OAU AND NAM MEETINGS.

2. LOCAL MEDIA PLAYED UP LOCAL AIRPORT STATEMENT DURING WHICH WAIYAKI QUOTED AS SAYING "DIALOGUE WITH SOUTH AFRICA IS RUBBISH" AND THAT HE WOULD RATHER RESIGN THAN SUPPORT SUCH A DIALOGUE.

3. WAIYAKI SAID KANU MANIFESTO SIGNED BY PRESIDENT KENYATTA CLEARLY STATES "WE SHALL NOT REST UNTIL ALL AFRICANS UNDER COLONIAL RULE ARE LIBERATED" AND THAT KENYA REMAINS 100 PERCENT COMMITTED TO LIBERATION STRUGGLE IN AFRICA.

4. WAIYAKI QUOTED AT PRESS CONFERENCE AS SAYING, IN SELF-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NAIROB 12161 151506Z

RIGHTEOUS TONE: "SOME OF US HAVE PRINCIPLES. I HAVE PRINCIPLES AND I WILL NOT BE A PARTY TO ANY GROUP SEEKING DIALOGUE WITH SOUTH AFRICA. I WOULD RATHER QUIT THAN SEE AFRICANS SUFFERING AT THE HAND OF APARTHELD WHILE, ON THE OTHER HAND, SOME PEOPLE ARE SEEKING DIALOGUE." HE ADDED, "AS FOREIGN MINISTER I AM ENTITLED TO SPELL OUT OUR FOREIGN POLICY ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF KENYA.

I AM SUPPOSED TO SPEAK STRONGLY AGAINST APARTHELD. THOSE WHO ARE TALKING BEHIND THE MINISTRY'S BACK ARE GROSSLY INTERFERING WITH OUR WORK."

5. ADDRESSING KENYAN AMBASSADORS AT FIRST CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE SINCE 1975, WAIYAKI CHARGED ATTORNEY GENERAL'S STATEMENTS INTERFERED WITH COMPETENCE OF HIS MINISTRY, AND HE STATED "IT IS UNHEALTHY FOR OUR GOVERNMENT, AND IT WILL BRIG DISUNITY IN THE COUNTRY." WAIYAKI STRESSED THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN KENYAN POLICY TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA AND DECLARED THAT IF PRESENT POLICY WERE TO CHANGE HE WOULD NOT BE A PARTY TO IT.

6. DISPUTE CONTINUES IN AUGUST 15 PRESS, WITH "STANDARD" (LONRHO, KENYATTA FAMILY) CLEARLY FAVORING WAIYAKI. "DAILY NATION" (AGA KHAN OWNED) GENERALLY TENDS TO SUPPORT NJONJO, BUT TODAY DID NOT DEFEND HIS VIEWS AS IT DID IN AUGUST 10 EDITORIAL (REFERENCE). "NATION" DID, HOWEVER, CHIDE THE FOREIGN MINISTER FOR PUBLICLY DENYING HAVING THREATENED TO QUIT IF KENYAN SOUTH AFRICAN POLICY CHANGED. BOTH PAPERS CARRIED RESIGNATION THREAT STORY, WHICH, ACCORDING TO THE "NATION" WAS HEARD BY EVERYONE AT AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE AND CONFIRMED BY AUGUST 12 FOREIGN MINISTRY PRESS RELEASE. TONE OF "NATION" EDITORIAL SUGGESTS WAIYAKI IS EQUIVOCATOR IF NOT OUTRIGHT LIAR.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 NAIROB 12161 151506Z

7. "STANDARD" TODAY HEADLINES "WAIYAKI WARNS NJONJO," BUT IN TEXT "WARNING" IS ONLY TO THE EFFECT THAT ATTORNEY GENERAL'S VIEWS WILL CAUSE "DISUNITY," NOT THAT NJONJO WILL PERSONALLY SUFFER FROM EXPRESSING HIS UNWELCOME OPINIONS.

8. COMMENT: THIS ISSUE HAS CLEARLY DRAWN THE BATTLE LINES BETWEEN THESE TWO MAJOR FIGURES ON THE KENYAN POLITICAL SCENE. WAIYAKI'S BREAK WITH THE MOI NJONJO GROUP IS NOW OPEN AND COMPLETE, THUS PUBLICLY CONFIRMING EARLIER REPORTS OF THE SHIFT OF HIS ALLEGIANCE TO THE KENYATTA FAMILY FACTION.

9. WAIYAKI'S VIEWS WILL CERTAINLY EVOKE SYMPATHETIC RESPONSE THROUGHOUT BLACK AFRICA, WHILE NJONJO'S POSITION WILL BE CONDEMNED. IT IS NOT, HOWEVER, LIKELY THAT NON-KENYAN AFRICAN OPINION WILL HAVE IMMEDIATE, SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON DOMESTIC POLITICAL FORTUNES OF EITHER MAN. WE ARE RELIABLY INFORMED THAT MOI WAS NOT BOthered BY NJONJO'S DECLARATIONS AND HAS REMARKED THAT "ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS EVERY RIGHT TO VOICE HIS OPINIONS." ON OTHER HAND MOI IS NOT LIKELY TO TAKE WAIYAKI TO TASK FOR HIS VIOLENT REACTION. NO ONE HERE EXPECTS KENYATTA TO TAKE ANY NOTICE OF POLEMIC AT ALL.

10. IT IS, NEVERTHELESS, LIKELY THAT OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY FACTION WILL SUPPORT WAIYAKI AND USE THIS ISSUE TO ATTEMPT TO DISCREDIT THE MOI/NJONJO GROUP.

11. IN MOST OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES A PUBLIC BREAK ON SUCH A FUNDAMENTAL AND EMOTIONAL ISSUE MIGHT LEAD TO ONE OF THE DISPUTANTS BEING DROPPED FROM THE GOVERNMENT.
FOREIGN POLICY IS OF SUCH MARGINAL IMPORTANCE IN KENYA THAT IT PROBABLY WON'T HAPPEN HEREM BUT AS WE GET CLOSER TO NEXT YEAR'S ELECTIONS THE MATTER WILL SURELY BE BROUGHT UP AGAIN TO HAUNT MOI AND HIS ASSOCIATES.

12. NOW THAT IT IS OFFICIAL THAT ELECTIONS ARE TO BE NEXT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 NAIROB 12161 151506Z

YEAR, WE EXPECT DOMESTIC POLITICS TO COME ALIVE IN KENYA.
THIS IS PROBABLY THE OPENING ROUND IN WHAT WILL BE A LONG AND ROUGH FIGHT.

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